

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

150927Z Jun 05

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 14 PARIS 004192

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR ECA/PE/V/R/E (CAROL GRABAUSKAS; STEVE TAYLOR);  
EUR/PPD (LILLIAN DEVALCOURT)  
E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OEXC](#) [SCUL](#) [FR](#)  
SUBJECT: FY 2006 IVLP - NOMINATION AND PART I BIODATA FOR SIX  
PRINCIPAL CANDIDATES FOR SCP - PLURALISM AND DEMOCRACY IN THE  
U.S.

REF:

POST WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE SIX PRINCIPAL CANDIDATES FOR  
SUBJECT PROGRAM: MRS. NAIMA CHARAI; MR. RACHID BOUMAHDI; MR.  
AMAR DIB; MR. BRUNO BEZIAT; MR. ADJI AHOUDIAN; MRS. BLANDINE  
CHELINI-PONT.

START FIXED-FORMAT TEXT (PLEASE DO NOT EDIT):  
: The following data is in a fixed format which enables  
: automated processing in Washington and should not be  
: edited except by means of the Post-EVDB software.  
EXPORT-SOURCE: POST-EVDB  
VERSION: 3.0.7  
POST-EMAIL: PaillardS@state.gov  
TRANSMITTING-POST: PAS Paris  
TRANSMITTING-POST-ID: 14544  
EXPORT-TYPE: BIO DATA  
START NOMINATION:  
ECA-OFFICE: E/VGE  
PROG-AGENCY-NAME:  
POST-PROJ-ID: 279  
ECA-PROJ-NO:  
PROJ-NAME: FY 2006 - SCP Pluralism and Democracy in the U.S.  
START MEMO PROJ-DESC:  
--To provide alternative solutions and approaches to key  
issues of integration of immigrant and minority populations,  
by understanding U.S. society and values.  
--To include overview of U.S. policy and legal and regulatory  
structures on discrimination; observance of institutions and  
public and private programs facilitating integration of  
minorities.  
--To understand how our government structure and private  
involvement works out issues of religious, racial, ethnic,  
cultural differences.  
END MEMO PROJ-DESC:  
PROJ-TYPE: Single Country Project  
PROG-TYPE: IV Grant Visitor  
FY: 2006  
DEPART-POST:  
SESSION-DATE:  
RETURN-POST:  
NO-OF-PART: 6  
RANK-ORDER: 7  
START MEMO POST-OBJ:  
  
END MEMO POST-OBJ:  
START MEMO POST-RCMD:  
  
END MEMO POST-RCMD:  
ECA-OFFICE-ID: 1047  
PROG-AGENCY-ID:  
PROJ-TYPE-ID: SCP  
PROG-TYPE-ID: 29  
NOMINATING-POST-ID: 14544  
FUNDING-CNTRY-ID:  
STATUS: N  
ORIGINATOR: P  
SUBJ-DISC: Diversity & Pluralism  
START BIO:  
PREFIX: Ms.  
F-NAME: Naima  
M-NAME:  
L-NAME: Charai  
SUFFIX:  
POSITION-CODE: 0  
PRINCIPAL?: Yes  
M-ADDR1: Conseil Regional d'Aquitaine  
M-ADDR2: 14, rue Francois de Sourdis  
M-ADDR3:  
M-CITY: Bordeaux  
M-STATE:  
M-CNTRY: France  
M-ZONE: 33077 cedex  
M-ZIP:  
M-PHONE: + (33) 5.57.57.80.97  
M-FAX: + (33) 5.56.96.46.92  
M-EMAIL: ncharai@caramail.com  
M-CNTRY-ID: FR  
M-ADDRTYPE: B  
GENDER: F

DOB: 10/04/1972  
MAR-STAT: S  
BIRTH-CITY: Taounate  
BIRTH-CNTRY: Morocco  
CITIZ-CNTRY: France  
RES-CNTRY: France  
START MEMO POSITION:  
Member of the Aquitaine Regional Council, Delegate for Urban  
Policy, since March 2004  
END MEMO POSITION:  
START MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:  
END MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:  
START MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:  
2002-2004 - Director of IPPO Association which takes care of  
and defends prostitutes  
1998-2002 - Volunteer Member of NGO "Medecins du Monde",  
coordinator of health care and risk prevention actions  
dedicated to homeless and drug-addicts  
END MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:  
START MEMO US-TRAVEL:  
None  
END MEMO US-TRAVEL:  
START MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:  
- London UK, 2004 tourism  
- Marrakech (Morocco), 2004 tourism and family stay  
- Heraklion (Crete), 2003 tourism  
END MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:  
START MEMO EDUCATION:  
1998 - Graduate degree in Social Psychology  
1997 - Master's degree in Psychology  
  
END MEMO EDUCATION:  
START MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:  
- Volunteer "Medecins du Monde"  
- Member of numerous associations dealing with urban policy as  
a Regional Counselor  
- Member of the board of various schools in Bordeaux  
END MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:  
START MEMO PUBLICATIONS:  
1997 - "Prejuges, discriminations et relations intergroupes"  
1998 - "L'acces aux soins: la theorie de l'engagement"  
2001 - "Evaluation de la satisfaction des usagers de drogues  
pris en charge en medecine de ville"  
END MEMO PUBLICATIONS:  
START MEMO SPEC-CONSID:  
Does not eat pork  
END MEMO SPEC-CONSID:  
FIRST-LANG: French  
ENGL-READ: 1  
ENGL-SPEAK: 1  
ENGL-COMP: 1  
START OTHER-LANGS:  
OTHER-LANG: Arabic  
OTHER-LANG-ID: AR  
READ: 0  
SPEAK: 0  
COMP: 0  
END OTHER-LANGS:  
START MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:  
It has always been a goal to reach out to the minority and  
immigrant communities in France. Since 9/11, the importance of  
reaching out to the Muslim community in particular has also  
become a top priority. Naima Charai is one of the few  
immigrant women elected officials in France and does not  
manifest any strong a-priori anti-U.S. bias. Her main areas of  
concern, social and urban problems, are ones that both our  
countries devote enormous efforts and resources to, although  
pursuing somewhat different approaches. An IV program for  
Charai, who has never been to the U.S., would offer the  
possibility of creating a strong, favorable impression in  
someone who has a profile that we do not often run across and  
who has the energy and drive to be present on the political  
scene for many years to come.  
END MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:  
START MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:  
  
END MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:  
START MEMO VIS-OBJ:  
  
END MEMO VIS-OBJ:  
START MEMO VIS-REC:  
  
END MEMO VIS-REC:  
NOMINATING-OFFICER: J. Brinton Rowdybush  
START MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:  
The Regional Council of Aquitaine covers five departments and  
is the third largest in France. It has a budget of some 700  
million Euros with broad responsibilities in the areas of  
economic development, education, infrastructure, and  
transportation. There are 85 elected members of the Council.  
Naima Charai is an exception in France: young (32), female,  
from an immigrant family of 10 children whose parents are  
illiterate, and an elected official (put in an electable  
position on the PS electoral list in March 2004). By any  
standards she is a classic success story. From doing a  
secondary program in sewing and styling, through an individual

effort she was able to re-orient herself and attain undergraduate degrees in psychology and then go on to two graduate degrees in the same field. Early on Charai became involved in association and humanitarian work. She has worked with Medecins du Monde to facilitate access to health care for 16-25 year-olds who are in precarious circumstances and also with young drug addicts. Starting in 2000 she became involved with prostitution issues and founded an organization to promote access to health care for these young women (and sometimes men) from Eastern Europe and Africa, as well as making them aware of their fundamental rights.

The same drive and profile that brought her to the attention of local politicians made the APP aware of her activities. I had first met her several times when she was sent by the Regional Council to represent it at various events. Although on the Left politically, she is not dogmatic in her attitude toward the United States and is genuinely interested in learning more about American approaches to social and urban problems. Although not a practicing Muslim, she comes from that community and offers an unusual opportunity to make connections with someone who has made extraordinary strides herself and is likely to be an increasingly important interlocutor for the future.

END MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:

NOM-OFF: APP Bordeaux, France

SPEAKER?: No

NOTIFY-EMB: No

MEDIA?: No

HOME-STAY: No

HOME-HOSP?: No

E-I-TYPE:

NOMINEE-ID: 554

PERSON-ID: 453

BIRTH-CNTRY-ID: MO

CITIZ-CNTRY-ID: FR

RES-CNTRY-ID: FR

FIRST-LANG-ID: FR

E-I-TYPE-ID:

NOM-POST-ID: 14544

NOM-FUNDING-CNTRY-ID: 0

NOM-STATUS: N

DS2019-ACTION: 1

DS2019-SUBJECT:

SPONS-FUNDS: 0

SPONS-AGENCY1:

USGOVT-AGENCY1:

US-AGENCY-AMT1: 0

USGOVT-AGENCY2:

US-AGENCY-AMT2: 0

INTL-ORG1:

INTL-ORG-AMOUNT1: 0

INTL-ORG2:

INTL-ORG-AMOUNT2: 0

VIS-GOVT-AMT: 0

COMMISSION: 0

OTHER-AMOUNT: 0

VIS-AMOUNT: 0

VIS-CAT:

END BIO:

START BIO:

PREFIX: Mr.

F-NAME: Rachid

M-NAME:

L-NAME: Boumahdi

SUFFIX:

POSITION-CODE: 0

PRINCIPAL?: Yes

M-ADDR1: GREMAQ

M-ADDR2: Universite des Sciences Sociales

M-ADDR3: Place Anatole France - Bat J

M-CITY: Toulouse

M-STATE:

M-CNTRY: France

M-ZONE: 31042 cedex

M-ZIP:

M-PHONE: + (33) 5.61.12.85.43

M-FAX:

M-EMAIL: boumahdi@univ-tlse1.fr

M-CNTRY-ID: FR

M-ADDRTYPE: B

GENDER: M

DOB: 11/29/1964

MAR-STAT: M

BIRTH-CITY: Medea

BIRTH-CNTRY: Algeria

CITIZ-CNTRY: France

RES-CNTRY: France

START MEMO POSITION:

Lecturer in Economics, University of Social Sciences,  
Toulouse, since 1992

END MEMO POSITION:

START MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:

Imam, Prayer Center, Portet-sur-Garonne, since 1999

END MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:

START MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:

1991-1992 - Adjunct lecturer in Economics, University of Social Sciences, Toulouse  
1990-1991 - in charge of tutorials in Economics, University of Social Sciences, Toulouse  
END MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:  
START MEMO US-TRAVEL:  
None  
END MEMO US-TRAVEL:  
START MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:  
- Chongqing, China - December 2003-January 2004, to train Chinese students on behalf of Toulouse University of Social Sciences  
- Mecca, Saudi Arabia - August 2003, pilgrimage  
- Dubai, United Arab Emirates - May 2000, to represent Toulouse University of Social Sciences at International Education Forum  
- United Kingdom, Spain, Luxembourg, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco - 1990's, business (to teach or attend professional conferences) or leisure (to visit family)  
END MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:  
START MEMO EDUCATION:  
October 1993 - Certificate of ability to direct research, University of Social Sciences, Toulouse  
April 1989-December 1991 - Ph. D. in Economics (with distinction), University of Social Sciences, Toulouse  
October 1987-March 1989 - Doctoral student in Mathematical Economics and Econometrics, University of Social Sciences, Toulouse  
END MEMO EDUCATION:  
START MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:  
- Member, Commission of Specialists, University of Social Sciences, Toulouse, 1995-present  
- Member, Board of Directors, Interdisciplinary Think Tank on Human Resources and Employment, University of Social Sciences, Toulouse  
- Vice President, Association of French Muslims of Portet-sur-Garonne  
- Member, Board of Advisors, Institute of Science and Theology of Religions, Toulouse, 2000-2003  
END MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:  
START MEMO PUBLICATIONS:  
Has published over twenty articles in economic journals and books, including numerous articles on discrimination in the job market:  
  
END MEMO PUBLICATIONS:  
START MEMO SPEC-CONSID:  
Eats Kosher meat. Is a practicing Muslim and prays five times a day but can adjust his prayer pattern to professional imperatives (i.e. will not interrupt a meeting to pray). However, sensitivity to his ability to practice his faith would be appreciated.  
END MEMO SPEC-CONSID:  
FIRST-LANG: Arabic  
ENGL-READ: 2  
ENGL-SPEAK: 2  
ENGL-COMP: 2  
START OTHER-LANGS:  
OTHER-LANG: French  
OTHER-LANG-ID: FR  
READ: 5  
SPEAK: 5  
COMP: 5  
END OTHER-LANGS:  
START MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:  
Based on the USG's current efforts to reach out to new audiences and especially to the Arab-Muslim community, an IV project for Mr. Boumahdi would be a chance for the USG to have a significant impact on an influential point of contact for the Mission in the Toulouse area. Having never visited the U.S. and coming from an environment where negative sentiments towards the U.S. tend to prevail, this is an outstanding opportunity to influence Mr. Boumahdi's perceptions of American religious culture and policy towards minorities. As a Muslim leader, his exposure to religious issues in the United States would very likely help counter many misconceptions present in the minds of French Muslims due to their current distrust of the United States based on their perception that the U.S. are waging a war against Islam. Providing him with a direct understanding of American values and efforts to fight discrimination will enable Mr. Boumahdi to gain a realistic knowledge and perception of the United States. Through Mr. Boumahdi, the USG can correct misunderstandings about America's attitude towards religious and ethnic minorities.  
END MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:  
START MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:  
Having never been to the United States, Mr. Boumahdi is eager to learn about the U.S. affirmative action policy (its roots, consequences, and results according to key players in the field). He is more specifically interested in discrimination in the job market and would like to meet with non-profits that deal with discrimination and job integration. He is also interested in meeting with Muslim leaders as well as with other minority leaders (Hispanic, African-American, religious minorities). He would like to better understand the way American Muslims live and the issues they face, in particular

how they practice their faith and what attitude Muslims in other parts of the world should adopt towards America and towards American Muslims. He is also keen to see if Muslims outside of the U.S. can benefit from American Muslims' experience with social integration (before and after 9/11), religious tolerance, and secularism.  
END MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:  
START MEMO VIS-OBJ:

END MEMO VIS-OBJ:  
START MEMO VIS-REC:

END MEMO VIS-REC:  
NOMINATING-OFFICER: Helene Mason  
START MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:  
Through his professional and personal interests, Rachid Boumahdi is a key player in Toulouse with regard to the many issues facing Muslim and immigrant communities. A native of Algeria himself, Mr. Boumahdi arrived in France in 1989 to pursue his post-graduate studies at the Toulouse University of Social Sciences thanks to a scholarship awarded to him by the Algerian Ministry of Higher Education as valedictorian of his class at the University of Algiers. His subsequent research in the field of economics has focused in part on discrimination in the job market in France and abroad. He has already published articles on this theme and is keenly interested in the current debate on affirmative action taking place in France. A deeper understanding of the roots and effects of affirmative action in the United States would likely impact his contribution to the French scientific community's debate on this issue. As a university lecturer currently responsible for teaching economics to approximately 500 students at various undergraduate and post-graduate levels and as a likely future tenured professor, he may also have the opportunity to teach on this theme to a number of students.  
With respect to his personal involvement with the Muslim community, Mr. Boumahdi is highly regarded as a moderate preacher and is one of three main local Islamic leaders for a community of approximately 30,000 Muslims in Toulouse. He has led prayer meetings -both in French and Arabic- twice a day, and the Friday prayers in particular, for the past five years at a cultural center in Portet-sur-Garonne, a close Toulouse suburbs. There are only approximately eight places of worship for Muslims in the greater Toulouse area. As one of the few Muslim preachers in Toulouse, Mr. Boumahdi is a member of the "Muslim Coordination" group, which brings together the main Toulouse Imams on a monthly basis to discuss issues and exchange ideas. He embodies the emergence of a new Muslim elite in Toulouse and has actively worked in favor of an Islam disconnected from foreign countries' influence, thus redefining the place of Islam and its organization in Toulouse.  
Mr. Boumahdi is also involved with the Institute of Science and Theology of Religions (ISTR) through which he teaches a course on Islam every trimester to a total of approximately 100 students from the Nursing School, Toulouse Business School and the National School for Civil Aviation. Until 2003, he was also involved in the ISTR inter-faith Advisory Board along with a number of other religious leaders and experts in Toulouse.  
Through his various connections, Mr. Boumahdi's network puts him on the forefront of the Toulouse Muslim life. His advice is sought-after by his peers and his influence in the Muslim community is great, despite his refusal to take part in the regional chapter of the French Council on the Muslim Faith. Mr. Boumahdi's open-mindedness also sets him apart and warrants a beneficial, if not influential, IV visit. He will no doubt become a university professor, with the added credibility and influence that this position entails, and has every intention of continuing to be an active leader in the Toulouse Muslim community.  
Not only would a visit to the United States as an International Visitor certainly influence Mr. Boumahdi's vision of religious issues in the U.S., it would also enable APP Toulouse to establish links with the local Muslim community. Such connections are difficult to develop, especially in the current international political situation, and this would be an effective opportunity to facilitate and amplify our outreach to the Muslim community.

END MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:  
NOM-OFF: APP Toulouse, France  
SPEAKER?: No  
NOTIFY-EMB: No  
MEDIA?: No  
HOME-STAY: No  
HOME-HOSP?: No  
E-I-TYPE:  
NOMINEE-ID: 555  
PERSON-ID: 454  
BIRTH-CNTRY-ID: AG  
CITIZ-CNTRY-ID: FR  
RES-CNTRY-ID: FR  
FIRST-LANG-ID: AR  
E-I-TYPE-ID:  
NOM-POST-ID: 14544

NOM-FUNDING-CNTRY-ID: 0  
NOM-STATUS: N  
DS2019-ACTION: 1  
DS2019-SUBJECT:  
SPONS-FUNDS: 0  
SPONS-AGENCY1:  
USGOVT-AGENCY1:  
US-AGENCY-AMT1: 0  
USGOVT-AGENCY2:  
US-AGENCY-AMT2: 0  
INTL-ORG1:  
INTL-ORG-AMOUNT1: 0  
INTL-ORG2:  
INTL-ORG-AMOUNT2: 0  
VIS-GOVT-AMT: 0  
COMMISSION: 0  
OTHER-AMOUNT: 0  
VIS-AMOUNT: 0  
VIS-CAT:  
END BIO:  
START BIO:  
PREFIX: Mr.  
F-NAME: Amar  
M-NAME:  
L-NAME: Dib  
SUFFIX:  
POSITION-CODE: 0  
PRINCIPAL?: Yes  
M-ADDR1: Conseil General du Rhone  
M-ADDR2: 29-31 cours de la Liberte  
M-ADDR3:  
M-CITY: Lyon  
M-STATE:  
M-CNTRY: France  
M-ZONE: 69483 cedex 03  
M-ZIP:  
M-PHONE: + (33) 4.72.61.77.77  
M-FAX: + (33) 4.78.62.05.41  
M-EMAIL:  
M-CNTRY-ID: FR  
M-ADDRTYPE: B  
GENDER: M  
DOB: 07/22/1964  
MAR-STAT: S  
BIRTH-CITY: Lyon  
BIRTH-CNTRY: France  
CITIZ-CNTRY: France  
RES-CNTRY: France  
START MEMO POSITION:  
Senior Advisor, Local Government Crime Prevention Unit,  
Greater Lyon Urban Community, since 2000  
END MEMO POSITION:  
START MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:  
- Administrator of the FASILD (Special Action and Support Fund  
for Integration and Anti-Discrimination), a national agency  
that support some 6,000 institutions nationwide  
- Member of the National Economic and Social Advisory Council  
- Publishing Director of "SADMagazine", a monthly national  
magazine that targets Muslim readers and covers social,  
economic and cultural issues  
END MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:  
START MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:  
Social Educator, Local Government  
END MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:  
START MEMO US-TRAVEL:  
New York City and Washington D.C. - 1994, one week tourism  
END MEMO US-TRAVEL:  
START MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:  
  
END MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:  
START MEMO EDUCATION:  
1985 - Graduate Degree in Social Practices, University of Lyon  
II  
1983 - Degree, Public Notaries School, University of Lyon III  
END MEMO EDUCATION:  
START MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:  
- President of the National Federation of "Convergence" Clubs  
(minorities integration institutions)  
- Vice-President of "Hospitalite Abraham" (Arab immigration  
institution)  
END MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:  
START MEMO PUBLICATIONS:  
- March 2005 - "Meeting the Mahdi", Albin Michel  
- 2004 - "The Children of the Republic", La Matiniere  
- 2003 - "In the Shade of Hatreth", Licorne  
END MEMO PUBLICATIONS:  
START MEMO SPEC-CONSID:  
  
END MEMO SPEC-CONSID:  
FIRST-LANG: French  
ENGL-READ: 2  
ENGL-SPEAK: 2  
ENGL-COMP: 2  
START OTHER-LANGS:  
OTHER-LANG: Italian  
OTHER-LANG-ID: JT

READ: 0  
SPEAK: 0  
COMP: 0  
END OTHER-LANGS:  
START OTHER-LANGS:  
OTHER-LANG: Arabic  
OTHER-LANG-ID: AR  
READ: 0  
SPEAK: 0  
COMP: 0  
END OTHER-LANGS:  
START MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:  
Dib's participation in the IVP would contribute to a positive perception of U.S. immigration and integration policies. It would also help offset criticism of the U.S. by minority ethnic groups.  
END MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:  
START MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:  
Social institutions: federal, state and local immigration and integration institutions, welfare organizations, social workers and mediators, police/social institutions/community partnerships  
Ethnic minorities: ethnic groups, media, community organizations, urban and housing rehabilitation programs, mosques and churches, groups that integrate refugees and other immigrants  
Judicial: youth-at-risk, juvenile crime prevention units, youth prisons and rehabilitation centers  
Economy: minority business development institutions  
Academics: Academic or social experts on affirmative action  
  
END MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:  
START MEMO VIS-OBJ:  
  
END MEMO VIS-OBJ:  
START MEMO VIS-REC:  
  
END MEMO VIS-REC:  
NOMINATING-OFFICER: Alain Beullard  
START MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:  
Amar Dib is a sociologist who occupies a series of concurrent positions, all tied to immigration and integration issues. Responsible for the Early Prevention Unit of the greater Lyon urban community, Dib also is an Administrator of the FASILD (Special Action and Support Fund for Integration and Anti-Discrimination), a national agency that supports some 6,000 institutions nationwide. In 2002, Dib was appointed a member of the National Economic and Social Advisory Council. Dib also is the Publishing Director of SADMagazine, a monthly national magazine that targets Muslim readers and covers social, economic and cultural issues. Dib is close to J-L Borloo, the Minister of Labor and Social Cohesion, who recently tasked Dib with recommending new policies to facilitate the integration of immigrants. Borloo asked Dib to place a special focus on affirmative action in his report. Dib is the author of several reports on integration policies, including one on housing and ethnic pluralism that was ordered by the Presidency. He also produced a study on Islam and integration. Dib is the national president and co-founder of Club Convergence, a national network, which gathers some 5,000 intellectuals and upper class French Arabs. Club Convergences has two primary goals: not only to serve as role models for young Arabs in France, but also to serve as "evidence" (to the French authorities) that French Arabs can serve in positions of responsibility in numerous different fields. In addition, Dib participates in numerous outreach programs, seminars and other events throughout the country.  
Dib is expected to pursue an active career that will keep him close to the highest national political and media circles. As a prolific author and active network lobbyist he should also remain an influential relay for new ideas.  
END MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:  
NOM-OFF: APP Lyon, France  
SPEAKER?: No  
NOTIFY-EMB: No  
MEDIA?: No  
HOME-STAY: No  
HOME-HOSP?: No  
E-I-TYPE:  
NOMINEE-ID: 556  
PERSON-ID: 455  
BIRTH-CNTRY-ID: FR  
CITIZ-CNTRY-ID: FR  
RES-CNTRY-ID: FR  
FIRST-LANG-ID: FR  
E-I-TYPE-ID:  
NOM-POST-ID: 14544  
NOM-FUNDING-CNTRY-ID: 0  
NOM-STATUS: N  
DS2019-ACTION: 1  
DS2019-SUBJECT:  
SPONS-FUNDS: 0  
SPONS-AGENCY1:  
USGOVT-AGENCY1:  
US-AGENCY-AMT1: 0  
USGOVT-AGENCY2:

US-AGENCY-AMT2: 0  
INTL-ORG1:  
INTL-ORG-AMOUNT1: 0  
INTL-ORG2:  
INTL-ORG-AMOUNT2: 0  
VIS-GOVT-AMT: 0  
COMMISSION: 0  
OTHER-AMOUNT: 0  
VIS-AMOUNT: 0  
VIS-CAT:  
END BIO:  
START BIO:  
PREFIX: Mr.  
F-NAME: Bruno  
M-NAME:  
L-NAME: Beziat  
SUFFIX:  
POSITION-CODE: 0  
PRINCIPAL?: Yes  
M-ADDR1: Place Jacques Lemoine  
M-ADDR2:  
M-ADDR3:  
M-CITY: Bordeaux  
M-STATE:  
M-CNTRY: France  
M-ZONE: 33000  
M-ZIP:  
M-PHONE: + (33) 5.56.00.32.28  
M-FAX: + (33) 5.56.00.32.17  
M-EMAIL: b.beziat@sudouest.com  
M-CNTRY-ID: FR  
M-ADDRTYPE: B  
GENDER: M  
DOB: 12/06/1968  
MAR-STAT: M  
BIRTH-CITY: Perigueux  
BIRTH-CNTRY: France  
CITIZ-CNTRY: France  
RES-CNTRY: France  
START MEMO POSITION:  
Journalist, Head of the Department "Society", Sud-Ouest  
newspaper, Bordeaux, since January 2004  
END MEMO POSITION:  
START MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:  
TV7, presenter for shows on social issues  
END MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:  
START MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:  
2000-2003 - Journalist, Head of the Department "City of  
Bordeaux", Sud-Ouest newspaper  
Jan 1999-Dec 1999 - Journalist, Head of Arcachon Office, Sud-  
Ouest newspaper  
1997-1998 - Journalist, Office of Saintes, Sud-Ouest newspaper  
1995-1996 - Journalist, Office of Oloron, Sud-Ouest newspaper  
END MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:  
START MEMO US-TRAVEL:  
- Vermont - 1986, three weeks school exchange  
- Montana and Dakota - 1993, two weeks vacation  
END MEMO US-TRAVEL:  
START MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:  
- Canada - 1992-1994, twenty months for professional purpose,  
journalist for a French newspaper  
END MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:  
START MEMO EDUCATION:  
1992 - Master's degree in Political Science, University of  
Bordeaux IV  
1990 - Master's degree in Information and Communication  
Sciences, University of Bordeaux III  
1989 - Bachelor of Art's degree in sociology, University of  
Bordeaux II  
END MEMO EDUCATION:  
START MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:  
Member of the "Club de la Presse" of Bordeaux  
END MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:  
START MEMO PUBLICATIONS:  
1995 - present: numerous articles in Sud-Ouest newspaper  
END MEMO PUBLICATIONS:  
START MEMO SPEC-CONSID:  
  
END MEMO SPEC-CONSID:  
FIRST-LANG: French  
ENGL-READ: 3  
ENGL-SPEAK: 3  
ENGL-COMP: 3  
START OTHER-LANGS:  
OTHER-LANG: Spanish  
OTHER-LANG-ID: QB  
READ: 0  
SPEAK: 0  
COMP: 0  
END OTHER-LANGS:  
START MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:  
One of our primary tasks is to reach out to the media in order  
to achieve balanced and fair coverage of U.S. policies, goals  
and values. It is vital to include major local media in this  
strategy. For Southwestern France, Sud-Ouest is the major  
player and Beziat is one of its rising young stars. He is now



at a point in his career where he will be taking on increasing responsibilities. A more knowledgeable understanding of the U.S. as the result of an IV program will have a positive, long-term impact.

END MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:

START MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:

END MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:

START MEMO VIS-OBJ:

END MEMO VIS-OBJ:

START MEMO VIS-REC:

END MEMO VIS-REC:

NOMINATING-OFFICER: J. Brinton Rowdybush

START MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:

Sud-Ouest is privately held, belonging primarily to the founding Lemoine family. With an audience of 300-350,000, it is the leading regional newspaper in the area, and the second regional daily after Ouest-France. It covers Aquitaine, Charentes and Gers, and owns local dailies in Pyrenees Atlantiques, Charentes and Dordogne. Sud-Ouest also owns 50% of the Bordeaux based local TV station TV7 and operates a brand new, highly automated printing plant which Ambassador Leach visited in 2003.

Bruno Beziat has been a journalist with Sud-Ouest for the past 10 years. He served outside of Bordeaux in smaller cities before being called back to the main office in 2000 to oversee local Bordeaux coverage and the CUB (Communaute Urbaine de Bordeaux). He was recently promoted to head up the newspaper's social and daily life coverage, including the key sector of education. Beziat's original training is not specifically as a journalist, but rather in sociology, information/communication, and political science, all in Bordeaux, so he is very much a local product.

Even though Beziat has had some limited exposure to the United States, from a high school trip and from brief visits to the U.S. when he worked for a weekly in Saskatchewan, Canada, this was more than 10 years ago. He understands, as does his senior management, that he would definitely benefit from exposure to U.S. issues, problems, and approaches today. We have been told by Sud-Ouest's managing editor that Beziat is being groomed for increased responsibilities at their publishing group and they are making a calculated investment in him. We can see why since he is a dynamic and resourceful individual.

It is well-known that there has been considerable criticism of and even hostility towards the U.S. in the French media in recent years. This has not been the case of Sud-Ouest, which presented balanced coverage, for example, of the American presidential campaign and has been judicious in its coverage of the Iraq war. Discussions with Beziat have indicated that he is open-minded about the United States and curious about developments there. Selection as an IV would result in many years of more informed and sympathetic coverage of the U.S. at a major regional press outlet.

END MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:

NOM-OFF: APP Bordeaux, France

SPEAKER?: No

NOTIFY-EMB: No

MEDIA?: No

HOME-STAY: No

HOME-HOSP?: No

E-I-TYPE:

NOMINEE-ID: 557

PERSON-ID: 456

BIRTH-CNTRY-ID: FR

CITIZ-CNTRY-ID: FR

RES-CNTRY-ID: FR

FIRST-LANG-ID: FR

E-I-TYPE-ID:

NOM-POST-ID: 14544

NOM-FUNDING-CNTRY-ID: 0

NOM-STATUS: N

DS2019-ACTION: 1

DS2019-SUBJECT:

SPONS-FUNDS: 0

SPONS-AGENCY1:

USGOVT-AGENCY1:

US-AGENCY-AMT1: 0

USGOVT-AGENCY2:

US-AGENCY-AMT2: 0

INTL-ORG1:

INTL-ORG-AMOUNT1: 0

INTL-ORG2:

INTL-ORG-AMOUNT2: 0

VIS-GOVT-AMT: 0

COMMISSION: 0

OTHER-AMOUNT: 0

VIS-AMOUNT: 0

VIS-CAT:

END BIO:

START BIO:

PREFIX: Mr.

F-NAME: Adj1

M-NAME:

L-NAME: Ahoudian

SUFFIX:  
POSITION-CODE: 0  
PRINCIPAL?: Yes  
M-ADDR1: Association "Braves Garcons d'Afrique"  
M-ADDR2: s/c Pepiniere Mathis  
M-ADDR3: 9, rue Mathis  
M-CITY: Paris  
M-STATE:  
M-CNTRY: France  
M-ZONE: 75019  
M-ZIP:  
M-PHONE: + (33) 1.55.26.82.10  
M-FAX:  
M-EMAIL: ahoudianadji@yahoo.fr  
M-CNTRY-ID: FR  
M-ADDRTYPE: B  
GENDER: M  
DOB: 09/10/1979  
MAR-STAT: U  
BIRTH-CITY: Tiebele  
BIRTH-CNTRY: Burkina Faso  
CITIZ-CNTRY: France  
RES-CNTRY: France  
START MEMO POSITION:  
Artistic Committee Referent, "Braves Garcons d'Afrique" - BGA  
(immigrant association), since 2001  
END MEMO POSITION:  
START MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:  
Social Mediator for "Immobiliere 3F" (management and building  
of social housing), since 2001  
END MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:  
START MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:  
2001-2004 - President (and founding member) of BGA  
1999-2001 - Counselor, Leisure Center  
END MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:  
START MEMO US-TRAVEL:  
None  
END MEMO US-TRAVEL:  
START MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:  
Senegal, 2002 and 2004 - work for "Association BGA"  
END MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:  
START MEMO EDUCATION:  
2001 - Diploma taken after two years at University of  
Sociology  
1999 - High School diploma in Management and Accountancy  
1999 - Camp Counselor Certificate  
END MEMO EDUCATION:  
START MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:  
  
END MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:  
START MEMO PUBLICATIONS:  
  
END MEMO PUBLICATIONS:  
START MEMO SPEC-CONSID:  
  
END MEMO SPEC-CONSID:  
FIRST-LANG: French  
ENGL-READ: 1  
ENGL-SPEAK: 1  
ENGL-COMP: 1  
START MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:  
Adjia Ahoudian has demonstrated a clear grasp of the difficult  
issues that confront underprivileged youth in France and has  
shown his dedication to providing a better life for the  
residents of his neighborhood. We believe a greater  
understanding of how these issues have been dealt with in the  
U.S., and the possibility of associating his goals and  
objectives with those of US support organizations for  
youth/minorities, will bolster the work of BGA within the 19th  
arrondissement. A deeper understanding of U.S. government,  
society and culture will also permit him to act as a third  
party endorser of our policies and enhance his own active role  
as a minority community leader.  
END MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:  
START MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:  
  
END MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:  
START MEMO VIS-OBJ:  
  
END MEMO VIS-OBJ:  
START MEMO VIS-REC:  
  
END MEMO VIS-REC:  
NOMINATING-OFFICER: Katja Graisse  
START MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:  
Actively involved in Paris' social arena, Mr. Adjia Ahoudian, a  
young (25 years old) French of African origin leading a  
neighborhood association for young immigrants (Braves Garcons  
d'Afrique - Brave Boys of Africa), presents very high  
potential in terms of outreach towards a multi-ethnic and  
underprivileged community. Born in Burkina Faso, Mr. Ahoudian  
came to France at the age of 2. His early experiences and  
drive lead him to found "BGA", which is now a key local actor  
for the integration of ethnic minorities in Paris' 19th  
District. His group has been active in fostering projects,  
especially in the artistic arena, aimed at building solidarity

among resident youth of mostly African extraction and at providing a creative and peaceful alternative to a lifestyle of violence (of national and international scope). In so doing, the BGA expects to also facilitate their integration into French society. Mr. Ahoudian has never traveled to the U.S. but shows great cultural and artistic (dance & music in particular) interest in America, especially the African-American and immigrant community experience.

Adji Ahoudian's work with underprivileged youth in his own neighborhood would greatly benefit from a trip to the United States. He would greatly benefit from exposure to social and cultural community work aimed at integrating minorities and immigrants within the U.S. and build his own network of contacts for future development of local and national projects. This experience would also provide him with a strong insight to U.S. values and society, leading to an increased support for U.S. policy positions for himself and the individuals he deals with on a regular basis and for whom he represents an alternative leadership.

END MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:

NOM-OFF: PA - U.S. Embassy Paris, France

SPEAKER?: No

NOTIFY-EMB: No

MEDIA?: No

HOME-STAY: No

HOME-HOSP?: No

E-I-TYPE:

NOMINEE-ID: 558

PERSON-ID: 457

BIRTH-CNTRY-ID: BN

CITIZ-CNTRY-ID: FR

RES-CNTRY-ID: FR

FIRST-LANG-ID: FR

E-I-TYPE-ID:

NOM-POST-ID: 14544

NOM-FUNDING-CNTRY-ID: 0

NOM-STATUS: N

DS2019-ACTION: 1

DS2019-SUBJECT:

SPONS-FUNDS: 0

SPONS-AGENCY1:

USGOVT-AGENCY1:

US-AGENCY-AMT1: 0

USGOVT-AGENCY2:

US-AGENCY-AMT2: 0

INTL-ORG1:

INTL-ORG-AMOUNT1: 0

INTL-ORG2:

INTL-ORG-AMOUNT2: 0

VIS-GOVT-AMT: 0

COMMISSION: 0

OTHER-AMOUNT: 0

VIS-AMOUNT: 0

VIS-CAT:

END BIO:

START BIO:

PREFIX: Mrs

F-NAME: Blandine

M-NAME:

L-NAME: Chelini Pont

SUFFIX:

POSITION-CODE: 0

PRINCIPAL?: Yes

M-ADDR1: L'Heritiere

M-ADDR2:

M-ADDR3:

M-CITY: Ventabren

M-STATE:

M-CNTRY: France

M-ZONE: 13122

M-ZIP:

M-PHONE: + (33) 4.42.28.76.43

M-FAX:

M-EMAIL: blandine-pont@tiscali.fr

M-CNTRY-ID: FR

M-ADDRTYPE: H

GENDER: F

DOB: 10/22/1965

MAR-STAT: M

BIRTH-CITY: Toulon

BIRTH-CNTRY: France

CITIZ-CNTRY: France

RES-CNTRY: France

START MEMO POSITION:

Associate Professor in History, University of Aix/Marseille III, since 2005

END MEMO POSITION:

START MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:

In charge of the CNRS research team on "Democracy and Religion", since 2005

END MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:

START MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:

1996-2005 - Associate Professor in History, University of Aix/Marseille

1992-1996 - High School Teacher in History, Lycee Paul Cezanes, Aix-en-Provence

END MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:

START MEMO US-TRAVEL:

- Washington - 2003, one week for academic research at the American Public Library
- Salt Lake City, Utah - 2004, 8 days to conduct research at Brigham Young University

END MEMO US-TRAVEL:

START MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:

- Budapest, Hungary - 2004, conference as guest speaker on "The Permissible Scope of Legal Limitations on Freedom of Religion or Belief"
- Italy - 2004, Council of Europe's conference as guest speaker on "Religion and Public Sphere"
- Tübingen, Germany - 2003, conference as guest speaker on "The Ethical or Spiritual Foundations of Europe"
- Quebec, University of Laval - 2003, conference as guest speaker on "Democracy and Religious Pluralism in France"

END MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:

START MEMO EDUCATION:

- 1995 - PHD in Law, School of Law, University of Aix/Marseille
- 1994 - PHD in History, Paris School of Political Sciences
- 1988 - succeeded the highly competitive national examination in History

END MEMO EDUCATION:

START MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:

- American Catholic Historical Association
- European Studies on Religion and State Interaction Network

END MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:

START MEMO PUBLICATIONS:

- 2003 - "Geopolitique du Christianisme", Ellipses
- 2004 - "Les Relations entre le Saint-Siège et les États-Unis", Picard
- 2005 to be published - "Dieu, la France et les États-Unis: quand les mythes font la loi", Berg International

END MEMO PUBLICATIONS:

START MEMO SPEC-CONSID:

END MEMO SPEC-CONSID:

FIRST-LANG: French

ENGL-READ: 3

ENGL-SPEAK: 3

ENGL-COMP: 3

START OTHER-LANGS:

OTHER-LANG: German

OTHER-LANG-ID: GM

READ: 0

SPEAK: 0

COMP: 0

END OTHER-LANGS:

START MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:

In advocating societies where religion and democracy have important role, Dr. Chelini-Pont is in a unique position to have a significant impact on curriculum development. Her nomination will strengthen an already well-established faculty where her teaching will influence the nation's future leaders.

END MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:

START MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:

It is important for Dr. Chelini-Pont to have exposure to both American notions of the separation between Church and State and also the central role that religion plays in American life. It would be useful for her to meet religious leaders within their communities (priests, ministers, rabbis, and imams) to observe the ways in which organized faith can interact with democracy. She should speak to someone in the government who can describe faith-based approaches to societal problems. She should also visit with professors of theology, universities with religious affiliations and centers of ecumenical activity on campus (for example: the Neuman Club at the University of California in Berkeley).

END MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:

START MEMO VIS-OBJ:

END MEMO VIS-OBJ:

START MEMO VIS-REC:

END MEMO VIS-REC:

NOMINATING-OFFICER: Josette Steinbach

START MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:

Long before religious pluralism and its confrontation/collision with the state became a hot issue in France, University Professor, Blandine Chelini-Pont designed two curricula on "Religion and Democracy" and "Secularism and Education" that received the Ministry of Education's accreditation: She has been teaching these courses for six years at the graduate level at the Marseille Law School and at the School of Political Science, the only institutions in France of higher learning where such curriculum is being offered.

At age 39, a mother of five children, Dr Chelini-Pont is brilliant but modest. She admits to many sleepless nights while securing her reputation as a prolific author, and sought-after speaker on matters of religion, ethics, politics and culture. Her expertise on the history of religion and its interaction within the public sector, as well as her recent research on religious identity and the role of Islam in France prompted a special consultant's assignment at the Council of

Europe. She also is a regular guest speaker for the Committee on "Religion and Politics" at the Quai d'Orsay. Last year, she was named special consultant within the Academy of Aix/Marseille (the representation of the Ministry of Education in the region) for the period 2004-2006 where she will conduct a seminar for all the directors of regional high schools on "education and secularism".

After the publication of her sixth book in 2005 "Dieu, la France et les Etats-Unis: quand les mythes font la loi", she hopes to introduce aspects of U.S. studies into the curriculum at Marseille Law school. An invitation to the U.S. would be very timely as it would give her first hand exposure to the intellectual climate in which American religious thought and practice have influenced and been influenced by the development of American democracy. So far, she has only gone twice to the U.S. for research at libraries, it would be beneficial to expose her to a multi-disciplinary approach where she would meet with American government officials, NGOs, lawyers, minority groups, religious leaders, and of course other academics.

END MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:

NOM-OFF: AmGenCon Marseille, France

SPEAKER?: No

NOTIFY-EMB: No

MEDIA?: No

HOME-STAY: No

HOME-HOSP?: No

E-I-TYPE:

NOMINEE-ID: 559

PERSON-ID: 458

BIRTH-CNTRY-ID: FR

CITIZ-CNTRY-ID: FR

RES-CNTRY-ID: FR

FIRST-LANG-ID: FR

E-I-TYPE-ID:

NOM-POST-ID: 14544

NOM-FUNDING-CNTRY-ID: 0

NOM-STATUS: N

DS2019-ACTION: 1

DS2019-SUBJECT:

SPONS-FUNDS: 0

SPONS-AGENCY1:

USGOVT-AGENCY1:

US-AGENCY-AMT1: 0

USGOVT-AGENCY2:

US-AGENCY-AMT2: 0

INTL-ORG1:

INTL-ORG-AMOUNT1: 0

INTL-ORG2:

INTL-ORG-AMOUNT2: 0

VIS-GOVT-AMT: 0

COMMISSION: 0

OTHER-AMOUNT: 0

VIS-AMOUNT: 0

VIS-CAT:

END BIO:

END NOMINATION:

END FIXED-FORMAT TEXT:

WOLFF